

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 in view of the two Japanese references cited by the Examiner in paragraph on page 2 of the office action, are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that newly presented claim 10 is patentably distinct over the references relied on by the Examiner.

The Examiner will note that new claim 10 has been written in Jepson form. The preamble of the claim is a combination of original claims 1, 2 and 4-6. The improvement steps of claim 10 correspond to original claims 7 and 8.

It is respectfully submitted that it is only the combination of features of original claims 7 and 8 which makes it possible to meet the object of the present invention which is to control by means of the measured values the operating parameters, such as cooling water amount, casting speed and casting powder, in such a way that, at a preferred working temperature of the casting mold walls in the meniscus area, an optimum surface formation of the cast products is made possible together with an availability of the casting mold which is as long as possible.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest claim 10 as it is now set forth in the application.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 27, 2003.

By: F K L  
Friedrich Kueffner

Date: March 27, 2003